

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER 88- 078

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR:

INSIGHT MEDITATION WEST, SPIRIT ROCK CENTER, MARIN COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (the Board) finds that:

1. Insight Meditation West (IMW) is a non-profit organization offering instruction in the practice of insight meditation. IMW submitted a Report of Waste Discharge dated March 9, 1988, for the discharge of domestic waste from proposed facilities at the Spirit Rock Center.
2. IMW has proposed to develop a meditation retreat on six acres of a 412-acre property along Sir Francis Drake Road in the San Geronimo Valley near Woodacre. This retreat, which will be named the Spirit Rock Center, will offer daylong, as well as weekend and ten day retreats. There will also be annual retreats lasting between 45 to 80 days, and weekly evening classes. IMW predicts, based on past figure from a similar facility, that the longer retreats will have up to 150 people, and that there will be up to 40 staff people. The daylong or night classes will have up to 125 people.
3. IMW plans to develop the following facilities at the Spirit Rock Center: staff housing for up to 40 people, dormitory structures accomodating up to 163 people, a meditation and meeting hall, a hermitage eventually housing up to 20 monks and nuns, and miscellaneous support buildings. The majority of the site will remain undeveloped, however, and in its current agricultural use.
4. Wastewater treatment and disposal for the Spirit Rock Center will be handled by on-site systems. The Center will be constructed in two phases. In the first phase, facilities will be built for a small caretaker staff, and retreats lasting up to 10 days. The estimated wastewater flow will average 3,450 gallons per day (GPD), peaking up to 4,875 GPD during the retreats. In the second phase, facilities will be built to accomodate retreats lasting up to 45 - 80 days, as well as dormitory and dining facilities for up to 200 people. The second phase facilities are expected to be constructed within three years of the Master Plan approval, at which time, a revision to these waste discharge requirements will be applied for. The wastewater flow will average 6,060 GPD, peaking up to 9,000 GPD during retreats.
5. The entire project will be equipped with water conserving plumbing fixtures. The wastewater treatment and disposal facilities for the first phase, however, will be designed on the basis on standard plumbing fixture flow estimates. The water flow during Phase I will be monitored to allow for an estimation of feasible water conservation reduction rates, which will be incorporated into the design of the Phase II facilities.

6. Certain portions of the project area are suitable for conventional leachfields, while the high groundwater table in another portion requires additional effluent treatment prior to disposal. There will be septic tanks at the point of origin, leading to a main lift station with dual pumps. In Phase I, half of the effluent will go to a conventional, pressure dosed dual leachfield system, with a design capacity of 2,250 gallons per day (GPD) per field. The other half of the effluent will go to an intermittent sand filter, with disposal in a dual, pressure dosed shallow trench disposal field. The design capacity of the sand filter will be 2,250 GPD, which is also the capacity of each disposal field.
7. In Phase II, additional septic tanks and collection lines will be added. An additional, 2,250 GPD capacity sand filter will be added, along with another dual shallow trench disposal system. The flow will be alternated continuously between the two conventional leachfields, and the two sandfilters.
8. The discharger is not currently subject to waste discharge requirements.
9. The Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay Basin (Basin Plan) on December 18, 1986. The Basin Plan prohibits the discharge of raw sewage or any waste failing to meet waste discharge requirements of any waters of the Basin.
10. The Basin Plan identifies the following beneficial uses of Lagunitas and San Geronimo Creeks:
 - a. Agricultural supply
 - b. Water Contact Recreation
 - c. Non-Water Creek Recreation
 - d. Warm fresh water habitat
 - e. Cold freshwater habitat
 - f. Wildlife Habitat
 - g. Preservation of Rare and Endangered Species
 - h. Fish Migration
 - i. Fish Spawning
11. The discharger has prepared a mitigated negative declaration for this project, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) The mitigated Negative Declaration has been reviewed by the Marin County Planning Department, and adoption has been recommended.
12. The Basin Plan prohibits the discharge of wastewater which has particular characteristics of concern to beneficial uses into any nontidal water, such as San Geronimo Creek. The State Water Resource Control Board's Non-Degradation Policy also requires the maintenance of the existing quality of waters such as San Geronimo Creek, where such waters are currently better than the Basin Plan's quality objectives.
13. The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for the discharge and has provided them with the opportunity for a public hearing and an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.
14. The Board, in a properly-noticed public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Insight Meditation West, Spirit Rock Center, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of waste shall not create a nuisance as defined in Section 13050(m) of the California Water Code.
2. The disposal of waste shall not cause degradation of the ground or surface water suitable for domestic water supply or cause an increase in any quality parameter that would impair beneficial uses of said waters.
3. The wastewater shall not surface in the disposal fields.

B. Prohibitions

1. The wastewater flow shall not exceed 2,438 GPD to the Creekside leachfield, and 2,438 GPD to the sandfilter. The average flow to each shall not exceed 2,250 GPD.
2. Wastewater shall not be directly discharged from the Spirit Rock wastewater facilities to the waters of the State.
3. Wastewater flow to the respective treatment and disposal units shall cease when the water table (the combined level of the effluent and groundwater) reaches the following depths (measured from the surface):
 - Creekside Disposal field : 16"
 - Central Disposal Field : 10"
 - Sandfilter : 16"
4. The discharge of waste other than domestic wastes is prohibited.

C. Provisions

1. All necessary new waste handling facilities shall be constructed and operational before the discharge of waste commences.
2. The discharger shall file with the Regional Board a report of waste discharge at least 120 days before making any material change or proposed change in the character, location or volume of the discharge.
3. The discharger shall permit the Board or its authorized representative in accordance with California Water Code Section 13267 (c):
 - a. Entry upon premises in which an effluent source is located or in which any required records are kept;

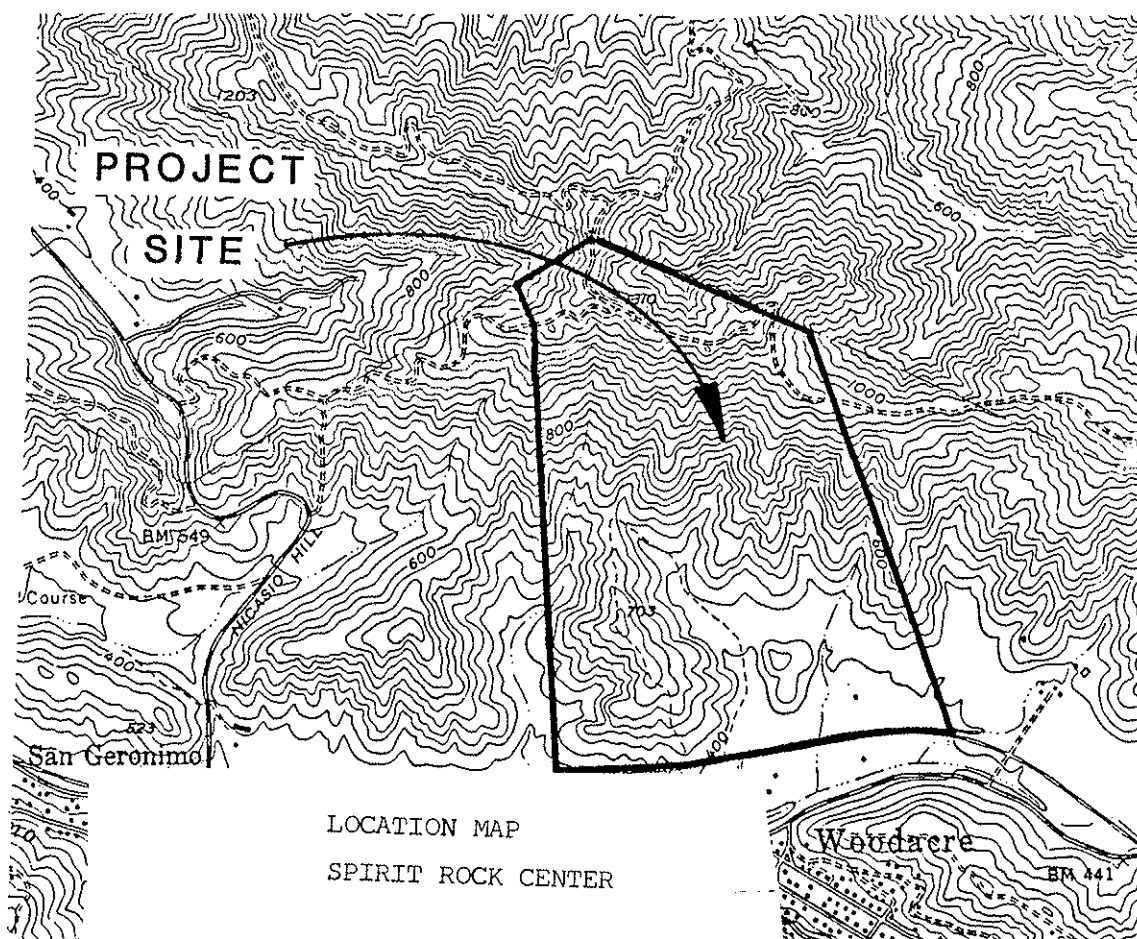
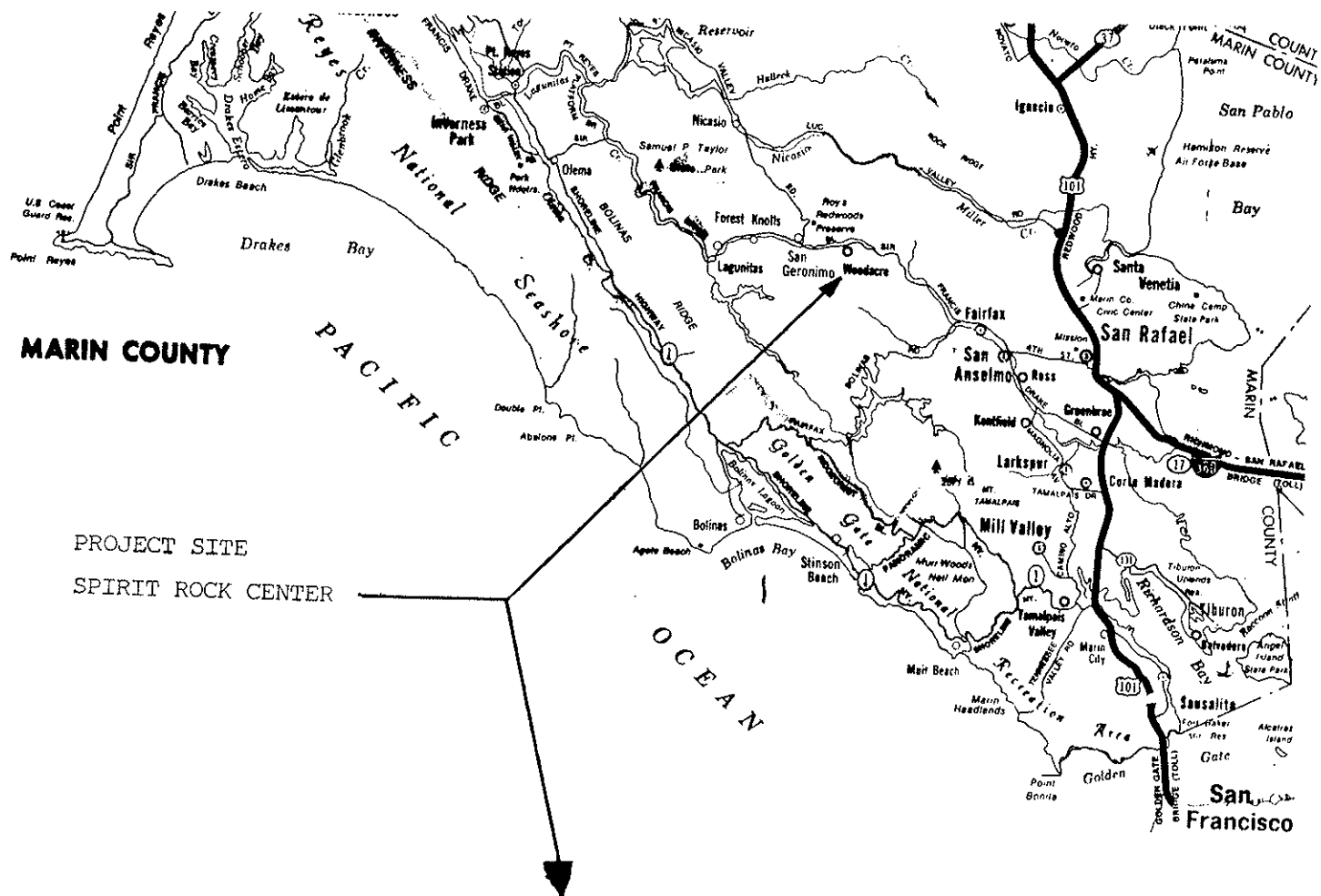
- b. Access to copy any records required to be kept under terms and conditions of this Order;
 - c. Inspection of monitoring equipment or records;
 - d. Sampling of any discharge.
4. The discharger shall maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible any facility or control system installed by the discharger to achieve compliance with the waste discharge requirements.
5. After notice and opportunity for a hearing, this Order may be terminated or modified for cause, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Violation of any term or condition contained in this Order;
 - b. Obtaining this Order by misrepresentation, or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts;
 - c. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge.
6. The discharger shall comply with self-monitoring program as adopted by this Board and as may be amended by the Executive Officer.
7. This Board will review this Order periodically and may revise the requirements when necessary.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region, on May 18, 1988.


for
ROGER B. JAMES
Executive Officer

Attachments:

Self-Monitoring Program
Location Maps: Proposed facilities



CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

FINAL SELF-MONITORING PROGRAM
FOR

INSIGHT MEDITATION WEST
SPIRIT ROCK CENTER
WOODACRE, MARIN COUNTY

I. GENERAL

Reporting responsibilities of waste dischargers are specified in Sections 13225(a), 13268, 13383, and 13387(b) of the California Water Code and this Regional Board's Resolution No. 73-16. The principal purposes of a self-monitoring program are:

1. To document compliance with waste discharge requirements and prohibitions established by this Regional Board, and
2. To facilitate self-policing by the waste discharger in the prevention and abatement of pollution arising from the waste discharge.

II. DESCRIPTION OF SAMPLING STATIONS, SCHEDULE OF SAMPLING ANALYZES AND OBSERVATIONS

A. Influent

1. Daily water meter readings, including water use (in gallons per day), and time of reading (to nearest hour).
2. A recording of the Pump event counters for the Main Lift Station on a weekly basis.

B. Disposal Fields

1. Weekly, observe the Creekside and Central Field disposal areas and their perimeters for the presence of surfacing wastewater, or waters draining below the fields.
2. If surfacing is observed or if water is observed draining from the field, the discharger shall take a grab sample for total and fecal coliform bacteria. A report of this observation and the results of the testing shall immediately be made to the Marin County Health Department and the Regional Board.
3. The water levels both immediately upslope and downslope of the Creekside and Central field disposal areas are to be measured monthly during the months of April to October. During the months of November to March, the water levels are to be measured weekly. The monitoring wells are to be located at least every 100 feet along the disposal areas.

III. REPORTS TO BE FILED WITH THE BOARD

A. VIOLATIONS OF REQUIREMENTS

In the event the discharger is unable to comply with the conditions of the waste discharge requirements due to:

- maintenance work, power failures or breakdown of waste treatment equipment
- bypassing of untreated or partially treated wastewater
- accidents caused by human error or negligence
- other causes such as acts of nature

The discharger shall notify the Board office by telephone (415-464-0806) as soon as he or his agents have knowledge of the incident and shall confirm this notification in writing within two weeks of the telephone notification. The written report shall include pertinent information explaining reasons for the non-compliance and shall indicate what steps were taken to prevent the problem from recurring.

B. Self-Monitoring Reports

Written reports shall be filed monthly. All reports are to be submitted by the fifteenth day of the following month. The reports shall include:

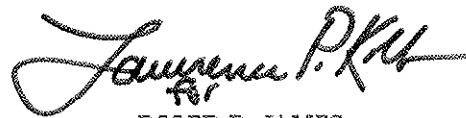
1. Letter of transmittal: A letter transmitting the self-monitoring reports shall accompany each report. Such a letter shall include a discussion of requirement violations found during the past month and actions taken for correcting violations, such as operational modifications. The letter transmitting monitoring reports shall be signed by a authorized personnel.

The letter shall contain the following statement: "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations."

2. Data: All results observed or analyzed per the requirements of Section II, including dates and times of sampling and observations.
3. Map: A map shall accompany the report, showing the location of the treatment and disposal facilities, and the monitoring and observation points.

I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, hereby certify that the foregoing Self-Monitoring Program

1. Has been developed in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Regional Board's Resolution 73-16 in order to obtain data and document compliance with waste discharge requirements established in Regional Board Order No. 88- 078
2. Is effective on the date shown below.
3. May be reviewed at any time subsequent to the effective date upon written notice from the Executive Officer or request from the discharger, and revisions will be ordered by the Executive Officer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence P. K. H." with a stylized flourish at the end.

ROGER B. JAMES
Executive Officer

Effective Date: